

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Bijaya Kumar Kabi
Project title	Community stewardship in conservation and sustainable management of mangroves in Orissa coast.
RSG reference	70.08.09
Reporting period	February 2010 to February 2011
Amount of grant	£5140
Your email address	apowa1999@yahoo.co.in , kabibijaya@yahoo.com
Date of this report	March 12th 2011

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To build capacity and increase awareness amongst communities on mangrove conservation.			Fully achieved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A 630 household survey and needs assessment conducted in six project villages. 2. Educational training programme conducted in six project villages and schools. 3. Educational resource materials were produced and distributed among the communities and students in the schools.
To promote and create a sustainable model for community management of mangroves.			Fully achieved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formation of Stakeholder Committee / Project Monitoring committee by involving the representative of village-level Mangrove Councils, teachers, technical experts, representative of 'Panchayat' (village level elected administrative unit), and members of existed different committees (Self help groups and youth club etc.). 2. Formation of six Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) for sustainable managing of the mangroves in their villages. 3. Formation of Mangrove Eco-clubs in six coastal schools.
Restoration of degraded mangrove forest			Fully achieved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Village mangrove council members have been managing the mangrove nursery that capacity of 16,000 seedlings. 2. More than 25,000 saplings of mangroves were planted in the environmentally degraded areas of tidal creeks through community participation. 3. There is an evidence of protecting the existing mangrove ecosystem, and importantly, reducing the human induced degradation of mangrove ecosystem.

Protection of mangroves which buffer the community from climate change and natural disasters while making it economically sustainable			Fully achieved	<p>1. In the six project villages, we have conducted six alternative livelihood programmes, e.g. mushroom, vegetables, agarbati, fish pickle and paddy cultivation.</p> <p>2. We have distributed 630 vegetable seed packets among the 630 households in order to promote kitchen gardening.</p> <p>3. Inspiring the community for the efficient use of fuel woods and also suggesting them to use alternative source of fuel wood like cow dung.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

In the mangrove nurseries, one of the initial problems encountered was that heavy rains during the early nursery period caused low seedling production, usually because the seeds are light and easily floated away. Some seeds were damaged.

It was sometimes hard and some difficulties to collect the large quantity of mangrove seeds from the creeks side forest, which is highly crocodile prone.

Teamwork was the most important tool we have at our disposal for overcoming the challenges. Working in cooperation with a variety of stakeholders including village communities, local government bodies, institutions, technical experts have put across some great ideas, knowledge, and experience also provides many benefits, as the stakeholders bring their own strengths.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Throughout the project, we have observed that there is an evidence of active participation of community especially village women in the village level Mangrove Councils, plantation work and in particular, alternative livelihood training programmes and the quarterly review meeting has been conducted to monitor and taking decision in the line of sustainable management of mangroves.
2. In comparison to the earlier period, there is reducing illegal destruction of mangroves in the six project villages, and importantly, the communities are showing more enthusiasm not only to preserve the existing mangroves but also to create new mangrove habitat nearby their villages. Henceforth, we have created a new mangrove habitat near the different creeks, which will be buffered the villages particularly from river erosion and cyclone.
3. During the project period, we have conducted six alternative livelihood training programmes (e.g. mushroom, vegetables, agarbati, fish pickle and paddy cultivation) with bringing agricultural experts, and also distributed 630 vegetable seed packets towards 'kitchen gardening'. In particular, there are two objectives of these activities: to make poverty stricken community more self sufficiency with creating alternative income opportunity, and to reduce dependency on mangroves to meet their economic needs that lead to illegal cutting of mangroves.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

As the onus of the present project is community-led conservation and sustainable management of mangroves, the communities therefore played a significant role in the context of active participation, providing timely inputs, contribution in kind, and taking part in monitoring as well as implementing the mangroves restoration. The dynamic participation of community has increased their overall capacity in two ways: gaining more knowledge on conservation and plantation of mangroves, and generating alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities. In the former context, they are learning about the opportunity cost of preserving the mangroves nearby their villages (e.g. protection against floods, hurricanes and tidal waves; control of shoreline and river bank erosion; influencing on local and global climate; sustaining the livelihood of the coastal communities; recreation and tourism , collecting more number medicinal plants, honey, fish etc) and also economically efficient way of planting the mangroves (e.g. 'ecological-hydrological' restoration method). The later, on the other hand, has increased the overall purchasing power not only through getting benefits from the ongoing mangrove conservation but also through 'kitchen gardening'.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the works and ideals of the project have become vital components of the ongoing and continue efforts to restore and conserve the mangroves. The team continues to undertake this task through establishing long-term relationship with mangrove communities for conservation, creation of more mangrove forests and restoration in new areas. Therefore, continue effort is required to ensure that most of the degraded areas will be replanted/planted and as a result, the mangrove ecosystem will be improved and the full sense of stewardship built within the communities.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

There are two ways to share the result of our work with others: internal and external. Internal sharing means exchanging the experience within the existing six project village committees. In this context, we are planning to organise a series of inter-group discussions to learn and share the successive stories of the mangrove conservation and its' benefits (e.g. social, environmental and economic) that make them more enthusiastic to preserve the mangroves. The external sharing, on the other hand, means sharing the outcome of our project among the wider communities those have keen interest on mangrove conservation, e.g. policy makers, non-governmental organisation, professionals, academics and practitioners etc. In this context, we are initially planning to publish a project report that will be widely circulated among the intellectual communities. In addition, we are planning for poster as well as oral presentation in the few forthcoming conferences related to 'mangrove resources management'.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The project activities were conducted from February 2010 to February 2011. The project was completed in time as per the action plan and proposal submitted to RSGF.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Field survey and consultation with communities	£ 180	£ 204	£ 24	Increase of working days and area for field survey work
Formation of Village Mangrove Councils training and educational activities	£ 650	£ 662	£ 12	Extra expenditure incurred for project monitoring and evaluation
Establishment of mangrove nursery and plantation	£ 1770	£ 1785	£ 15	More fencing acquired for large area of plantation site
Preparation and printing of educational materials for conservation awareness	£ 430	£ 435	£ 05	-
Formation of Mangrove Eco clubs and educational activities in schools	£ 490	£ 508	£ 18	More schools covered
Development of alternative livelihood , skill development training and action component for dependant communities	£ 260	£ 340	£ 80	More participants in livelihood training programme participated than anticipation.
Allowance for Volunteers	£ 1120	£ 1170	£ 50	One part time worker appointed to looking after mangrove nursery.
Travel Expenses	£ 240	£ 350	£ 110	Hike of fuel price and maximum uses of boats for travelling.
Total	£ 5140	£ 5454	£ 314	

- We use exchange rate when the fund received £1 = 71 INR

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

1. Expanding the project villages/areas with aiming more plantation and conservation of mangroves, as more degraded forest lying vacant and the frequency of natural disasters are on rising, mangroves not only reducing the intensity of storms, and shoreline and riverbank erosion but also creating alternative livelihood opportunity; mangroves are an effective sink for carbon dioxide and thus contribute substantially in carbon sequestration.
2. Continuing and preserving present mangrove plantation activities and also sharing information about the benefits of mangrove conservation in the different coastal villages including six project villages.
3. Expanding and promoting best alternative livelihood support to mangrove dependent communities so as to make them less dependant on mangrove forest and thereby reducing pressure on mangrove forest.
4. The continuing work on mangrove conservation education, which is vital for the spreading of the initiatives on mangrove conservation.

5. Planning to establish 'mangrove resource centre' which will be a crucial long-term step towards the sustainable conservation of the mangroves. It, in particular, attracts a large number of inter-disciplinary researchers, students, teachers, scientists, and conservationists to carry out more conservation, restoration, education and research activities on the 'mangrove'.
6. Planning to organise a series of inter-group discussions and also bring experts to learn and share the successive stories about the preservation of the mangroves and its' social, environmental and economic benefits.
7. Planning to apply second Rufford small grant for the continuance of the present project.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

RSGF logo was used in all the educational materials such banners, posters, T-shirts, reports etc. RSGF logo was also used in the alternative livelihood training programmes, educational programmes in schools and villages. RSGF logo was used in the signboard at the mangrove nursery and plantation site.

11. Any other comments?

We look for further cooperation ties with the RSGF Programme; so that local mangrove communities can be effectively empowered to sustainable manage the mangrove resources in Orissa and will create more new mangrove forests. There is a great deal of enthusiasm among the villagers towards conservation and restoration of mangroves. So, we want to keep this momentum and continue to be strengthened.